

DIPLOMATIC INTERCOURSE.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Transmitting a report from the Secretary of State, upon the subject of the Diplomatic Intercourse of the United States with Foreign Nations.

FEBRUARY 7, 1833.

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

To the House of Representatives:

I transmit, for the consideration of Congress, a report from the Secretary of State on the subject of our diplomatic intercourse with foreign nations.

ANDREW JACKSON.

WASHINGTON, February 7, 1833.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, January 31, 1833.

To the President of the United States:

SIR: The general superintendence of our foreign relations, which, under your direction, is vested in the head of the State Department, would seem to require that he should, at proper periods, bring to your view the state of our diplomatic intercourse with other nations, and suggest the measures which occur to him for making its agency more effectual.

That agency employed (necessarily perhaps) by European powers, in forming or defeating political combinations, and in a vigilant observation of each other's plans and operations, with us has different objects. Remote from these scenes of political jealousy and strife, strong in our own resources, and giving no umbrage by intermeddling in the affairs of other nations; we want no alliances for our defence, nor do we fear that any will be formed which it will be our interest to defeat; and thus have no motive for entering into the vortex of European diplomacy. Ours has a

distinct character. Its only objects are, the preservation of peace; the extension, to other powers, of a mutually beneficial commerce; the promotion of a friendly interchange of good offices; and the establishment, by treaty, of principles which may render wars less frequent, and disarm them, when they must occur, of many unnecessary horrors, inconsistent with the manners and feelings of the age in which we live.

Confined, however, to these objects, this branch of the Executive functions of our Government would seem to be sufficiently important; but all who have observed its operations must be convinced, that its utility is not sufficiently appreciated, and that it is even regarded with an unreasonable jealousy. Ministers are considered as favorites, selected to enjoy the pleasures of foreign travel at the expense of the people; their places as sinecures; and their residence abroad as a continued scene of luxurious enjoyment.

Their exertions, their embarrassments, their laborious intercourse with the Governments to which they are sent, their anxious care to avoid any thing that might, on the one hand, give just cause of offence, or to neglect or abandon the rights of their country or its citizens, on the other, are all unknown at home. Even the merit of their correspondence, from which, at least, the reward of honor might be derived, is hid in the archives of the department, and rarely sees the light: and, except in the instances of a successful negotiation for claims, a minister returns to his country, after years of the most laborious exertion of the highest talent, with an injured, if not a broken fortune, his countrymen ignorant of his exertions, and undervaluing them, perhaps, if known. On the whole, there is scarcely an office, of which the duties, properly performed, are more arduous, more responsible, and less fairly appreciated, than that of minister to a country with which we have important commercial relations. Yet there is some reason to believe that appointments to them are sometimes eagerly sought from the same false ideas of the nature of the employment. To these mistaken ideas, more or less prevalent, may be traced many of the evils which have operated, and still operate, injuriously upon the interests and reputation of the country.

It is the main object of this report to point out these evils, and to suggest the means of correcting them, for the consideration of those who can alone apply the remedy.

In doing this, the first inquiry will naturally be, whether, during our rapid increase in population, in extent of territory, and, above all, in commerce, a sufficient attention has been paid to the extension of our diplomatic relations, which is called for not only by these circumstances, but by the changes which are taking place in almost every quarter of the globe? Natural causes, obvious to the most superficial observer, and the habits which they have produced, formed, by time, into a national character, have made us essentially a commercial and navigating people. But commerce and navigation both require the protecting arm of Government abroad, as well as at home. That protection can only be effectually given by agents residing in the country where navigation carries our commerce. Where we have treaties, vigilant officers must be ready to see they are faithfully executed. False constructions, injurious to our trade, may be made by the foreign power itself; subordinate agents may violate the spirit of our treaties by improper exactions, by injurious discriminations, by petty vexations, and all the variety of impositions to which an unprotected foreigner is

liable; and thus either drive our merchants from a trade otherwise lucrative, or, if they carry it on under these disadvantages, lessen its profits. If these evils arise in commercial pursuits, under the guarantee of treaties, they must, evidently, be much greater where we have none. What is to be inferred from this plain statement, too obviously true to be doubted? The plain conclusion, that, wherever we have a commerce worth preserving, we must have agents to protect it. What are to be the attributes of these agents will form another branch of this inquiry. At present, we must examine where our diplomatic agencies are located, and whether their number is commensurate with objects which are required to be attained.

To begin with Europe. We have, in that quarter of the globe, four missions that are usually filled with ministers plenipotentiary and envoys Extraordinary—these reside at the courts of France, England, Russia, and Spain; and six others, in which we are represented by charges d'affaires, the lowest grade of diplomatic agents. These last are accredited at the courts of Stockholm, Copenhagen, the Hague, Brussels, Libson, and Constantinople. With Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, the other members of the Germanic Confederation, the Hansetowns, Switzerland, Sardinia, the Papal Dominions, Naples, and the rest of Italy, and Greece, we have now no diplomatic relations whatever; and, with most of them, we have never had any. Yet, with many of these powers, we have important, and, with all, an increasing commerce. Whether it may be proper to establish diplomatic relations with any, and which of these countries, it is not the purpose of this report to show. It may not be improper, however, to bring to view the fact, that these countries in which we are thus unrepresented, in which our merchants must trust for protection to the inefficient representations of consuls, or to their own, where we have none, contain an aggregate population of seventy-five millions five hundred and twenty-five thousand; most of them industrious inhabitants of some of the finest countries in the world. It is, however, believed, that, by a judicious distribution of our foreign missions, two additional ministers plenipotentiary, and two or three ministers of a lower grade, would be sufficient for the representation of our interests in Europe.

In Africa we have three consuls with small salaries and diplomatic powers. They reside in Tunis, Tripoli, and Tangiers, in the empire of Morocco. Should the Pacha of Egypt establish his independence, another would be useful at Alexandria.

In America, we have one minister plenipotentiary in New Grenada, shortly to be replaced by a charge d'affaires; and five ministers of this last rank in Mexico, Central America, Peru, Chili, and Brazil; Buenos Ayres being now vacant. Should these States, which lately constituted the Republic of Colombia continue separated, a mission to Venezuela will be indispensable, as well for the superintendence of the actual commerce, as for the settlement of claims upon that part of the late Republic of Colombia, by our citizens, for illegal captures and other demands.

The whole ordinary annual expense of our foreign relations for the last three years, has been two hundred thousand three hundred and ninety-three dollars ten cents; and the foreign commerce which it has superintended abroad, in export and import, averages, during the same period, more than one hundred and seventy-two millions, independent of the freight and the capital represented by nine hundred seventy-three thousand and forty-three tons of shipping, which cannot be calculated at less than fifty-eight millions;

making a total of more than two hundred and thirty millions: so that the cost of our foreign missions is less than one eleventh of one per cent on the amount of capital placed under its protection—a much more moderate rate of compensation than is paid in any other branch of our Government.

This, however, is the least important view of the subject.

A minister to a foreign power, whatever may be his grade, is the accredited agent of his country. If he is forced, from the inadequate compensation that is allowed him, to live in a manner that will not allow him to associate, on an equal footing, with others of the same grade, he is deprived of many of the advantages which social intercourse affords, to perform essential duties, and to gain important information, which can only be obtained by mixing in the first circles. It is not expected, nor should I recommend, that his allowance should be such as to enable him to vie, in expense of living, with the ministers of monarchs, who allow extravagant salaries, and who, themselves, have large fortunes, which they expend in addition to their official allowance; but he ought to have the means of returning civilities which he receives—of giving to his countrymen a plain hospitable reception when they visit the place of his residence; and, above all, he ought to have an allowance that will enable him to meet the expenses absolutely necessary for the due performance of his official duties, without trenching on his salary so much as to render it entirely incompetent to his necessary and decent support. A *charge d'affaires* receives four thousand five hundred dollars salary. He cannot go to court without a carriage, the yearly expense of which is, nowhere, less than one-fourth of his salary. To make the remainder meet the absolute expense of his living, he must live in a hotel or boarding house. His archives must go with him; for he cannot, out of his pittance, afford to hire an office. The consequence is, that the important papers of his mission must be kept in a tavern, and are liable to all the accidents which are inevitable from the nature of such places of deposit, and from frequent removals. No allowance is made to him for clerk hire; and, where his despatches ought to be full, they are improperly abridged; where they ought to be in duplicate or triplicate, a single copy is sent, which frequently miscarries. When they should be in cypher, they are written out, and are liable to the examination of those through whose hands they pass; and no record is kept of important papers, copies of which ought to be kept; and all this, because he has not the means of employing a person of confidence to transcribe his papers. This evil, and it will always exist while our foreign missions are on their present establishment, has been productive of consequences more injurious to our foreign relations than could be supposed by one unacquainted with the fact. Very soon after my coming into office, I had occasion, in my instructions to some of our foreign ministers, to refer to former despatches, or to papers which had formerly been sent; but, to my great surprise, I found that, in some instances, no records had been kept; in others, they were imperfect; and, in none, complete. So that a minister on his arrival can discover but very scanty knowledge of what his predecessor has done; and, in some instances, has been under the mortifying necessity of applying to the foreign office of the country to which he is sent for information that ought to have been placed in the archives of his legation. Frequent removals from one hotel or lodging house to another, or other accidents, had occasioned the loss of books and documents with which former ministers had been supplied.* So that

* See supplement marked C.

the archives of most of our legations exhibit only "a beggarly account of empty boxes;" and it has happened, even in the short time during which I have filled the office, that negotiations of much importance have been delayed, until, by a protracted correspondence, it has been discovered that documents indispensable to its progress, and which ought to have been with the legation, were wanting, and were to be supplied again from the department. To remedy this evil, as far as lay in my power, in future, supplemental general instructions were sent to all our ministers, a copy of which is hereunto annexed, marked A.

If these should be obeyed, as I trust they will, it can only be at a considerable expense for clerk-hire, office rent, and stationery, to be deducted from salaries scarcely adequate to a bare decent subsistence.

The want of a fixed place for doing business, and of a clerk always to be found in it, to receive and answer applications when the minister is unavoidably absent, is the more important, because of the nature of the affairs he has to transact. They are either with his countrymen, whose business will not admit of delay, or with the functionaries of the Government to which he is sent; the most subordinate of which would pay very little respect to a minister who had neither an office to receive them in, nor a clerk to answer their inquiries. At home, the head of every subordinate bureau attached to any of the departments, has an office, and a messenger, and clerks, and fire, and stationery, and lights, and every convenience for carrying on the business entrusted to him. This is as it should be. But, to represent the dignity of the country, and, on a scanty salary, to transact its most important concerns abroad, we send a man whom we provide with none of these necessities for the transaction of his business; we force him to do all the drudgery of the office with his own hands, and either to live in some obscure place, where his countrymen blush to find him fixed, when, after some difficulty, they have discovered his tavern residence; or, at the expense of his own fortune, to provide what is necessary for the interest and dignity of the Government. The usual answer to these representations is that, notwithstanding all these inconveniences, candidates are always found eagerly seeking these appointments. But it must be remarked that these candidates are of two kinds. First, men of wealth, who are willing to purchase the honor of the station at the expense of their private fortunes. But, although these are not always the fittest, in other respects, for the place, they are sometimes selected, and their appointment is popular, because there seems to be no objection to a minister's keeping up a decent appearance, provided he does it at his own expense. Secondly, there are others who seek these appointments, because they make false calculations on the consequences. They resolve to be very economical, to live within their income, and to be drawn into no extravagance. But, on arriving at their place of destination, they find that expenses which might, with prudence, have been avoided here, are inevitable abroad. Civilities are received which must be returned; strangers are introduced who must be entertained; their countrymen call on them, and must be treated hospitably. In short, they find themselves obliged to live as others do; or, to forego all the advantages which social intercourse would give them in the business of their mission. The consequence is, that all our ministers return with impaired fortunes, however firm their resolutions have been to avoid unnecessary expense. It is possible there may be exceptions; but they are certainly very rare. If, then, none of the ministers we have sent abroad, however prudent, have

been able to live for the salaries that are allowed them, the conclusion is inevitable, that the salaries ought to be increased, or the ministers should be recalled. If the mission is useful it ought to be supported at the public, not at private expense; and the representatives of a great nation ought not to be obliged to employ, in devising parsimonious expedients for their support, that time and those talents which ought to be occupied in the service of their country.

The salary of a minister plenipotentiary, in the early part of our revolution, was two thousand five hundred pounds sterling, equal to eleven thousand one hundred dollars, besides which, they had, in some instances, an allowance for house rent. The embarrassed state of our finances at a subsequent period, induced Congress to reduce the salaries of our diplomatic agents to the present parsimonious scale. How adequate this is to the purpose designed, may be judged by the representations in the annexed paper, marked B, taken from the despatches of our most distinguished ministers; no one of whom can be supposed capable of misrepresenting facts, even where their interest was concerned. But, if any doubt should be entertained on the subject, they will be removed by conversing with any one of our ministers who have returned, and have now no motive for exaggerating the difficulties they experienced from a scanty income while they were abroad. Some of these facts, and some of the evils they produce, have been frequently brought to the notice of Congress, but as they have hitherto produced no alteration in the system, it is respectful to suppose that there is some good reason to prevent the obvious remedy, by a small increase of salary. But the serious evil arising from the want of a fixed place to keep the records of our legations abroad, and the disgraceful state of imperfection in which they are kept, from the want of an allowance for clerk hire, have never, it is believed, been officially stated to the Legislature.

The inconvenience is every day felt. The minister abroad is ignorant of what his predecessors have done. A prodigious expense for extra clerk hire is called for at the department, for the copying such of the documents as are found there, to send to the minister when the occasion calls for them. He is obliged to grope his way through the mutilated documents he finds in the archives of his legation, before he finds what is wanting, and he is then forced to send to the department to know whether they are found there; and, after all this delay, he, perhaps, finds himself so straitened in his circumstances, as to ask a recall before he can make himself master of the several subjects committed to his charge. Another minister succeeds; another outfit must be given, and, in the end, false economy in this, as well as in other cases, defeats its own end.

Taking it, however, from past decisions, that no increase of salary will be given, I respectfully suggest, as a remedy for the evils I have stated, that every diplomatic agent be obliged, by law, to keep regular books for the recording of all the business appertaining to his mission, in such form as has been directed by the Department of State, and that, for this purpose, a reasonable allowance be made in the settlement of his account, for house rent, stationery, and clerk hire; and that provision be also made, by law, to defray the expense of copying all documents and correspondence in the Department of State which are necessary for completing the archives of the several legations abroad. Without these provisions, our foreign relations can never be carried on with any regularity; with them, your ministers may live, with strict economy, without material injury to their fortunes;

they will be enabled to comply with the instructions given them for the preservation and regular record of their papers; their correspondence with the department will be regularly kept up; and a minister succeeding another within a short time, may have a complete knowledge of all that has been done by his predecessor, and what remains to be done by him. Instructions from the department will be less voluminous, because they will contain references, only, to documents, instead of being burdened with copies, sometimes of great bulk; and, in short, some of the first duties of the office, which are now omitted, will be performed, because there will be no excuse for neglecting them.

If these allowances should be directed to be made, it will require an additional annual expenditure in the fund for missions abroad, for our present establishment, of about thirty-six thousand dollars; and, in addition to the advantages which will be purchased at this comparatively trifling expense, there will be one of no small advantage in a national point of view. Young men of education will gladly attach themselves to the several missions, in the character of private secretaries, for the moderate allowance which the minister, by this arrangement, will be enabled to give; they will acquire habits, knowledge, and talents, which will fit them to serve their country in the higher ranks of diplomacy, according to their merits.

It is probable, sir, that some of the opinions expressed in this report may not merit your sanction. They are the result of my best reflection on some of the most important functions of the department you have committed to my care; and I should deem myself wanting in duty if I did not bring them to your notice, and request that they might be submitted to Congress, whose wisdom will determine the consideration, if any, to which they are entitled.

All which is respectfully submitted.

EDW. LIVINGSTON.

Circular supplemental to the Personal Instructions to the Ministers, &c., of the United States abroad.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, 24th February, 1832.

SIR: The direction contained in your personal instructions which relates to the archives of your mission, was introduced to avoid a great evil which that direction has hitherto only partially removed. Neither the instructions given to a diplomatic agent by his Government, nor the official letters he receives, nor the records of his answers, and of other transactions relating to his office, are his private property: they are to be kept subject to the order of the department to which his office is attached. The public interest, and the convenience of official intercourse with our agents in a foreign country, require that every minister who succeeds to a mission should know accurately the directions that have been given by the Government to his predecessors, and what they have done—what communications they have received from other sources, and what answers they have given. It was, therefore, made a standing direction to all our diplomatic agents, to preserve the archives of their mission with the utmost care, that they might be delivered to their successors, either immediately, or by means of

such persons as might be ordered to receive them until the successor should arrive. It has been observed, with regret, at the department, that these directions have been, in many instances, but imperfectly executed, and in others totally disregarded.

It is, therefore, that, by the President's direction, I call your attention to the subject by this communication, which, being addressed without any exception to each of our ministers abroad, is not to be considered as implying a charge against any one in particular, but is intended to secure a more strict compliance with the instructions of the department, and to render them more explicit, and the compliance with them, in the several missions, more uniform.

1. On the arrival of any minister at the place of his destination, at his first leisure he is to examine the archives of the legation; if an inventory has been left by his predecessor, he is to verify it with the person from whom he received it, by comparing the archives with the inventory; and to acknowledge, by his signature, the receipt of the several articles contained in the inventory, or of such as are found, noting those which are wanting, and adding those found in the archives which are not contained in the inventory.

If no inventory has been left, he must proceed to make one, and verify it in the manner above described.

This inventory in both cases to be fairly written and copied; one copy to be sent to the department, and the other kept in the archives of the legation.

If a preceding inventory has been sent to the department, the continuation of it only need be sent, but, in all cases where no such inventory has been sent, it must be done without delay, in order to enable us to supply deficiencies, as far as it can be done, from the materials to be found here, it being the intention of the President that the archives of each legation shall be made complete, and that henceforth they shall be kept so, on the responsibility of the minister or agent in whose charge they may, for the time being, be placed.

2 Every instruction or letter from the department—every written communication addressed to the minister from any other source, is to be carefully filed, endorsed with a short note of the contents, and an index formed of the contents of each bundle, package, or box, in which they are contained.

3 Proper books are to be procured in which every official paper of the legation, without exception, is to be fairly copied and indexed. This is to include, as well protocols of conferences, notes of official conversations, and every memorandum necessary to the full understanding of the history of his mission, as copies of his correspondence.

4. Great care is to be taken to furnish the department with copies of all official notes or letters received, as well as of the answers given; to note all conversations with men in office, having any material bearing on the relations of the country to which you are sent, with the United States, and which you think it important that your Government should be informed of; to make these notes as soon after the conversations occur as possible, and to send copies in your next despatches. Whenever such notes, or any other communication you make, would have an injurious effect, if intercepted, either on the interest of the country or individual feelings, it is recommended to you to use the cypher with which you are furnished.

5. Your attention is particularly called to that part of your personal in-

structions which requires you to furnish statistical information for the purpose of intimating that, at this period, tables of export and import, and tonnage, both foreign and domestic; the rates of duties, and every other information relating to the commerce and navigation of the country to which you are accredited, will be particularly acceptable to the department, together with any interesting publications on those subjects.

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

EDW. LIVINGSTON.

B.

Statement in relation to the Inadequacy of the Salaries of our Ministers abroad.

ENGLAND.

Mr. Adams to Mr. Jay.

"LONDON, 15th December, 1785.

"In this state of things, I must be cautious. I am not able to pay the scribes, like an exchequer; nor to promise them pay or promotion, like an opposition. And, indeed, paragraphs in our favor seem only to provoke ten inventions against us. Something might be done in time, however, by mixing in conversation, and explaining or contradicting the grossest and worst abuses. But this can be done, in these countries, only by the civilities of the table, and by a liberal hospitality, in which we are much straitened. *House rent, furniture, carriage, and a certain number of servants, with the daily expenses of living, which cannot be avoided, without becoming the scorn of the world, and without being insulted by every footman and porter, consume all, and more than all, our allowance.*

"I feel for the circumstances of my country as much as any man in it, but I am sure those circumstances will not be mended by extreme parsimony in the support of her servants and negotiators in Europe. When your ministers are seen to take rank of nobles and bishops at St. James', who spend many thousands a year, and are observed to live at home and appear abroad, with what is called "*la plus infame economie*," which is the expression every day in vogue, you will find that neither you nor they will be considered as of any consequence. Your ministers abroad must keep a table for the entertainment of strangers who are presented at court, and consequently to them, to return the civilities that are shown them by foreign ministers, and by people of high rank in the country. They ought to keep a table, at times, for the entertainment of men of letters and eminence in arts and sciences, by which they might remove the prejudices of the world against their country and themselves, and attract some attention and good will to both. How far any of these things are in our power to do, I cheerfully submit to the consideration of Congress; being determined to do everything in my power, with the means I have, and to be happy, myself, whether I make a little figure or a great one.

"With great esteem, &c.

"JOHN ADAMS.

"His Excellency JOHN JAY,

Secretary of State."

Mr. John Quincy Adams to the Secretary of State.

LONDON, 31st July, 1815.

"It is needless to say to you, or to any person having been in the same capacity here, that the annual salary of an American minister is insufficient to support a man with a family—I say not, in the style of high official rank, but in the decency becoming a private gentleman."

From the same. 30th September, 1816.

"An experience of the expense of living here, for upwards of four months, even under all the privation to which I have submitted, has confirmed me in the desire to be recalled as early in the spring as the President may find it convenient to replace me, if, upon the construction of the law, the Legislature should refuse an appropriation for the outfit."

General remarks by Mr. McLane, late Minister to Great Britain, and now Secretary of the Treasury.

"The salaries of the public ministers abroad must be acknowledged to be utterly inadequate, either for the dignity of the office, or the necessary comfort of their families. At some foreign courts, and those whose relations towards the United States are the most important, the expenses incident to the station are found so burdensome, as only to be met by the private resources of the minister. The tendency of this is to throw those high trusts altogether into the hands of the rich, which is certainly not according to the genius of our system. Such a provision for public ministers as would obviate these evils, and enable the minister to perform the common duties of hospitality to his countrymen, and promote social intercourse between the citizens of both nations, would not only elevate the character of his country, but essentially improve its public relations."

[*Report of the Secretary of the Treasury of 7th Dec. 1831.*]

FRANCE.

Benjamin Franklin, in a letter to Mr. Barclay, complains that it is attempted to deduct 500 pounds from 2,500, which he received annually, the whole of which was absolutely necessary to support the style of living which he had to adopt.

[*Letter dated 19th June, 1785. Dip. Correspondence, vol. 4, p. 218.*]

James Monroe, in a letter dated 17th December, 1810, to the Auditor, says,

"The reason in favor of an increase of the salaries of our ministers abroad, are as strong as for an increase of that of those at home, if not much

stronger; and there is one reason, of great force, which is peculiarly applicable to the former. The spirit of our Government, and the manners of our people, not only authorize, but inculcate economy at home in the expenditure of our public functionaries; but that indulgence cannot be enjoyed by those abroad, however consonant it may be to their habits and inclinations, or necessary to their circumstances."

CHILI.

John Hamm, charge d'affaires, says that he cannot discharge, properly, the duties of his office, without the allowance of an interpreter or secretary. (Despatch of 20th June, 1831.)

BUENOS AYRES.

F. Baylies, charge d'affaires, has employed a translator, and requests the allowance of his salary. (Despatch of 30th June, 1832.) In the same letter he observes, "I hope your discretionary power is sufficient to remunerate this expense, for I already foresee *that my annual allowance will be insufficient here, even for the very moderate establishment on which I have placed myself.*"

BELGIUM.

Hugh Legaré, charge d'affaires, asks the allowances of clerk hire, and house rent for an office; and says, "I would take the liberty of remarking here, that, without an allowance of the kind, the situation of a chargé d'affaires, by no means, as I know from experience, desirable in itself, becomes, in the last degree, irksome and disagreeable. I think the Executive ought to press it upon the consideration of Congress, that it is far from being an advantage, in any point of view, to the American people, to send its representatives abroad with inadequate compensation; as it is to expose them to perpetual mortification, and to make their whole life a painful struggle to reconcile inevitable expenses with necessary, however sordid, parsimony." (Despatch No. 3, dated 17th October, 1832.)

FRANCE.

Thomas Jefferson to Colonel Monroe, dated

"PARIS, 17th June, 1785.

"I thank you for your attention to my outfit; for the articles of household furniture, clothes, and carriage. I have already paid twenty-eight thousand livres, and have still more to pay. For the greatest part of this, I have been obliged to anticipate my salary; from which, however, I shall never be able to repay it. I find that, by a rigid economy, bordering, however, on meanness, I can save, perhaps, five hundred livres a month, at least in the summer. The residue goes for expenses, so much of course and of necessity, that I cannot avoid them, without abandoning all respect for my public character. Yet I will pray you to touch this string, which I know to be a tender one, with Congress, with the utmost delicacy. I had rather

be ruined in my fortune than in their esteem. If they allow me half a year's salary as an outfit, I can get through my debts in time. If they raise the salary to what it was, (2,500 pounds,) or even pay our house rent and taxes, I can live with more decency." (Diplomatic Correspondence.)

SPAIN.

Mr. Everett, minister, claims office rent.

ENGLAND.

In a letter from Mr. Adams to Mr. Jay, he says, in relation to his appointment as minister to England, "There is a certain appearance, in proportion to rank, which all the courts of Europe make a serious point of exacting from every body who is presented to them.

"I need not say to you, sir, because you know it perfectly, that American ministers have never yet been able to make this appearance at court; they are now less able to do it than ever. I lament this necessity of consuming the labor of my fellow citizens upon such objects, as much as any man living; but I am sure that the debasing your ministers, so much below their rank, will, one day, have consequences of much more importance to the husbandman, artisan, and even laborer."

RUSSIA.

H. Middleton, in a letter to the Secretary of State, dated 18th July, 1826, says that "his pecuniary circumstances will not admit his continuing, much longer, at a court where so much representation is necessary." In the same letter, he alludes to the necessity of his appearance at Moscow, at the coronation of the Emperor and Empress, upon which occasion he asks to be authorized to charge the expenses, &c.

In despatch No. 85, dated 11th May, 1829, he says, in relation to a particular ceremony at court: "An invitation of this sort being equivalent to an order, under pain of displeasure, I feel well satisfied to have been exempted from a duty for which the pecuniary means at my disposal are totally inadequate."

C.

Statement of the Deficiency in the Records, Papers, and Books of our Ministers abroad.

ENGLAND.

[Sent by AARON VAIL, Chargé d'Affaires.]

The earliest book of records of the correspondence from this legation seems to be that commencing on 1st August, 1826, under Mr. Gallatin. They are continued up to the present time. From this it would appear that *the proceedings of the different missions to England, from the first mission to the 1st of August, 1826, are not recorded in the legation.*

The instructions *from* the Department of State to the legation, on file there, commence with those addressed to Mr. Barbour. Instructions numbered 1, 3, 5, from 9 to 31, inclusive, to Mr. McLane, are *not in the legation*.

The despatches from the Department of State prior to Mr. Barbour's Mission, [1828] do not appear to be on file.

FRANCE.

[Sent by Mr. RIVES, late Minister.]

The record of despatches *from* the legation commences in March, 1810; *all previous to this date* are missing.

In relation to the despatches received *by* the legation from the Department of State, Mr. Rives says: "No regular record (excepting a portion of those received by Mr. Crawford) or a file of despatches from the Department of State, has been kept by any of my predecessors; and if it is desirable to complete the archives of this legation, in this respect, an entire series of despatches from the Department of State should be furnished, from the first mission to France down to the 20th July, 1829." (Mr. Rives' despatch, No. 130.)

RUSSIA.

[Sent by Mr. J. RANDOLPH CLAY and Mr. BUCHANAN.]

None of the records or despatches, previous to Mr. Middleton's mission, (1823) seem to be on file. With respect to the objects in the legation, Mr. Clay says:

"No record, no account or voucher of any kind; in short, the seal made under Mr. Middleton's orders, and the sorry trunk containing it, constitute the whole property of the United States, in what is dignified by the title of chancery of the American legation at St. Petersburg.

DENMARK.

Mr. Wheaton says, in his despatch of the 8th December, 1832:

"I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of despatch No. 16, under date of the 20th September last, from the acting Secretary of State. In reply, I beg leave to state that no archives of this legation existed previous to my arrival here, in the year 1827; nor was there then a single paper, book, or document belonging to the Government, except those I brought with me. The proper archives of the legation have been carefully preserved in two books, one of which contains all the official communications from the department to the mission, and the other its correspondence, both with the department and with this Government, so arranged as to be more conveniently referred to, and read, than if filed in bundles or *dossiers*, in the usual manner.

"Inclosed is a detailed list or inventory of the archives now belonging to this mission."

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